

Drive for Navajo Gifts at Climax Saturday

Torrance

Press-Herald

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HOW IT ALL STARTED . . . Leo DeBever (seated), a student from Holland now attending South High, tells members of his American family about St. Nicholas Day, which is celebrated each Dec. 6, in Holland. With Leo are (from left), Lisa Elliott, 8, Mrs. Jack Elliott, and Vicki Elliott, 6. The Elliott home is at 335 Via Linda Vista. (Press-Herald Photo)

It's An Old Dutch Custom

American youngsters hang stockings on the mantle or on the Christmas tree each Dec. 24 and, if they've been good, wake up to find them filled with goodies from Santa Claus.

But the tradition began in an earlier time and in another country, as one Torrance family learned this week.

The Jack Elliott family of 335 Via Linda Vista, host to exchange student Leo DeBever during the current school year, learned that the tradition of hanging stockings on Christmas Eve stems from an old Dutch custom.

The Dutch, Leo said, exchange gifts on St. Nicholas Day, which is celebrated each Dec. 6.

According to custom, Dutch children place their wooden shoes by the chimney on the evening of Dec. 5 and fill them with carrots for St. Nicholas' horse.

If the children have been bad, Black Peter will come by and leave a bag of salt. But if they've been good children, St. Nicholas will come by on his white horse and the next morning the youngsters find the room filled with goodies. Typical of the gifts are cookies in the shape of animals and toys. Each youngster also gets his initials — 10 inches high — in chocolate.

Adults, Leo said, get together on Dec. 5 after the children have gone to bed to exchange gifts and enjoy an evening of friendship.

The custom is observed in some parts of Germany and in Flemish Belgium, he added.

The Legend of St. Nicholas, Leo explained, began in Holland and spread to America, where it became mixed with Scandinavian customs. That, he added, is why American youngsters hang stockings.

Big Storm Relents; Sun Back in Skies



STORM VICTIM . . . Tuesday's near-gale winds were too much for this tree in the 1700 block of Date Avenue and it toppled into the street, closing the street to traffic for nearly an hour until city crews could get on the scene. They cut up and removed the tree. Elsewhere heavy branches and water-soaked palm fronds were blown down throughout the area. (Press-Herald Photo)

Winds Bring Damage

Sunny skies were the order of the day as the Southland began to mop up following one of the most severe December storms in recent years.

Storms which hit on the weekend dumped more than 4 inches of rain on Torrance before breaking up last night. A third storm predicted to strike today failed to keep its date.

No major damage was reported during the storm which sent gale-force winds whipping through the area, snapping trees and power lines. Utility companies kept crews busy throughout the storm repairing damage, but reported no major power stoppages.

Most streets were open to traffic and no major threats to area homes was reported.

Elsewhere in the Southland, the storm brought greater threats of damage as hillside lots and areas below water storage areas felt the brunt of the heavy rains. Several areas in the Southland canyon country were evacuated. Others were put on standby alert.

Weather forecasters this morning called for clearing and "mostly sunny" skies today and Thursday throughout the Los Angeles basin.

Study Ordered

A request for a change of zone from M-1 to R-1 involving land located near Sepulveda Boulevard and Marbella Avenue in the Avalon-Sepulveda Zoned District has been taken under submission by the Regional Planning Commission.

Driver Dies in Rain . . .

Thirty-seven-year-old Richard D. Milam, 21602 Vicky Ave., was dead on arrival at Hawthorne Community Hospital Monday morning after he was injured in a two-car collision on Mariposa Avenue, Milam, an employee of Hughes Aircraft, El Segundo, was driving eastward on Mariposa Avenue when his car collided with one driven by John Vance, 41, of Hawthorne. Milam may have been blinded by the driving rain and moved across the roadway into oncoming traffic, it was indicated.

Bonelli Heads Board . . .

Supervisor Frank G. Bonelli, who represents the First District on the county Board of Supervisors, was unanimously elected chairman of the board yesterday, succeeding Burton W. Chace of the Fourth District. Bonelli will serve until December, 1967. Bonelli was appointed to the board on June 4, 1958, after he has been elected to a four-year term the previous day. Chace, who completed his fourth term as board chairman yesterday, has served on the board since 1953.

On Highway Committee . . .

Appointment of a 10-man advisory committee to assist in the development of a proposed "South Bay Parkway" was announced yesterday by Supervisor Burton W. Chace. Included on the advisory committee were Mayor Albert Isen and Chamber of Commerce President Don H. Hyde of Torrance. Isen and Hyde joined the mayors and Chamber presidents of Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, El Segundo, and Redondo Beach on the committee. Under consideration is a limited access, landscaped, north-south highway through El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, and Redondo Beach.

Libraries Note Gains In October

Use of the five Torrance public libraries showed a slight increase in October over the same month in 1965, William S. Geller, county librarian, said today.

Geller said the slight increases in circulation followed a countywide pattern which showed total circulation for the month was 846,538.

More than 58,000 books and periodicals were loaned through the five Torrance libraries, compared with 54,987 in October, 1965. The greatest local increase was recorded at the El Retiro branch, where circulation jumped from 8,061 to 9,070.

Figures for the other four local branches are: Isabel Henderson (West Torrance), 12,786; North Torrance, 9,502; Downtown Torrance, 18,819, and Walteria, 7,921.

Use of the Lomita library increased by nearly 25 per cent during the month, Geller said. Circulation at the Lomita branch jumped from 6,054 in October, 1965, to 7,504 last October.



TOP RECRUITER . . . Brig. Gen. Frank L. Gunn, commanding general of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, checks latest recruiting information with his Torrance staff during visit here Tuesday. From left are M/Sgt. Albert Q. Rodriguez, area supervisor of recruiters; General Gunn; Sgt. I.C. Howard Hill, chief recruiter in Torrance; and Sgt. Arnold Rogstad, Torrance recruiter. (Press-Herald Photo)

Top Army Recruiter On Visit

The army's top recruiter, Brig. Gen. Frank L. Gunn, visited Torrance recruiters Tuesday during an inspection tour of U.S. recruiting stations.

On hand to greet the chief recruiting officer were M.Sgt. Albert Q. Rodriguez, area supervisor of recruiters; Sgt. I.C. Howard Hill, in charge of the Torrance recruiting office; and Sgt. Arnold Rogstad, Torrance recruiter.

General Gunn was special guest at an informal luncheon hosted by the military affairs committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

Radio Club to Assist Navajos

Collection of toys, clothing, and blankets for members of the Navajo nation living in northern Arizona will receive a day-long assist Saturday from members of REACT, Torrance area club for amateur and mobil radio hobbyists.

The YMCA-sponsored collection has been under way quietly for several months, according to Joe Wilcox, the YMCA's executive director. With the advent of December, however, the campaign swings into full force, Wilcox said.

Saturday's pick up program is being sponsored as a public service by members of REACT who will dispatch radio-equipped units through

the city from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. to pick up material from homes and businesses.

At the same time, the member of REACT will supervise distribution of the YMCA's annual compilation of suggestions for a family Christmas, printed this year in tabloid newspaper format. More than 600 young YMCA members will be distributing the YMCA paper Saturday with the members of REACT serving in supervisory roles.

The annual YMCA campaign to provide a mid-winter lift to the 6,000 Navajos living in northern Arizona is now in its 10th year, Wilcox reported. He told the Press-Herald that more than 15 tons of goods had been de-

livered to the Indians in the past nine years.

A caravan of 30 young people from the YMCA will leave Torrance on Dec. 27 and travel to the Navajo Reservation near Monument Valley, Ariz. A 40-foot van made available by Leon Goldsmith at Terminal Trucking Co. will carry this year's gifts in cartons made available by Torrance's Boise Cascade Co.

In addition to clothing, canned milk, canned foods, dried foods, and Christmas candies are being collected, Wilcox said.

Persons having such material for the Navajos may call the Torrance YMCA to arrange for a Saturday pick-up.

Children Schedule Concert

Youngsters from Torrance and Redondo Beach who have been involved in a musical showcase workshop will be featured in a program sponsored by the Los Angeles Bureau of Music Tuesday.

To be presented at the La-Salle Street School auditorium in Los Angeles, the program will include traditional

Christmas carols and selections from "Mary Poppins."

The group, which includes 22 youngsters between 5 and 16 years of age, is directed by Mrs. Glen Holzhausen and Mrs. Richard Marrelli, both from Torrance.

The choral group will present special programs Saturday for patients at the Spring Manor Rest Home and the

Earlwood Convalescent Home.

Youngsters from Torrance include Chris Ambert, Marguerite Carroll, Emily Donahue, Debbie Eckstein, Mary Beth and Mike Hayes, Lisa and Dale Holzhausen, Stephanie Johnson, Connie Langton, Debby McElroy, Francie Marrelli, Mary Mayfield, Kathy Meller, Dale Ortiz, Kathy Paul, and Lisa Rousseau.

Children from Redondo Beach are Mary Burschinger, Danny Hood, Gerald Pancake, Tim Toth, and Alice Walker. Mrs. Leroy Wentz, a Torrance resident, is the accompanist.

Carson, White Students To Perform in Festival

Students from Carson High School and White Junior High School will be among some 450 Los Angeles City School students who will participate in the annual Chamber Music Festival Saturday at Cal State Los Angeles.

The annual festival is sponsored by the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Southern California Gas Co.

Student performances will be judged by a panel of professional musicians. A total

of 137 chamber music groups will perform.

Carson High students who will participate include Teresa Fern, Larry Cunningham, John Ryan, Shawna Allen, and Helen Davis.

White Junior High musicians are Susan Wareing, Lois Tuck, Dee Nishimoto, Bradley Ball, Mary Kobayashi, Diane Honda, Karen Bradshaw, Dale Gillum, Sherrie Matthews, Bonnie Hamilton, Kim Burton, Paul Wehrman, Wade Fulbright, Robert Allen, and Donna Glatz.